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Stephen Hordley

Dated 25 November 2002

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1. Your reference

P0979.GBA

2. Patent application number

0200144.4

04JAN02 E685572-1 D02761
P01/7700 0.00-0200144.4

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant. (underline all surnames)

Mark Panton
159 Carholme Road
LINCOLN
LN1 1RU

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

7665565001

4. Title of the invention

ADHESIVE TAPE CUTTER

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

LOVEN & CO

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Quantum House
30 Tentercroft Street
LINCOLN
LN5 7DB

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

4467460003

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:
(a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
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(c) any named applicant is a corporate body
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No

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Continuation sheets of this form 0

Description 5

Claim(s) 0

Abstract 0

Drawing(s) 3

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents
(please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date 4 January 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

D J Murphy (01522 801111)

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ADHESIVE TAPE CUTTER**Field of the Invention**

The Invention relates to a device for allowing improved cutting of sections of adhesive tape from a roll of such adhesive tape.

5 Background of the Invention

Adhesive tape is a simple form of semi-permanent fixing. Generally, adhesive tape is supplied to the user in the form of a role made from a continuous strip of tape. The user can therefore peel off the desired length of tape, cut it, and then apply it to whatever material the user wishes.

10 Although the use of adhesive tape is a relatively simple exercise, sometimes the user can become frustrated by the constant need to find the free end of the adhesive tape each time a section of tape is removed from the roll. This minor chore can become a major task for users with impairments such as poor eyesight or arthritis.

At present, this common flaw of adhesive tape technology is dealt with by the
15 use of adhesive tape dispensers. These dispensers come in a wide range of forms, but they have a common operation mechanism, which involves holding the adhesive tape roll in a housing so that the tape can be unwound to a desired length before a section of tape is removed from the body using a cutting element, which is also attached to the housing.

20 Adhesive tape dispensers are an effective method of providing sections of tape from a roll of adhesive tape. However, adhesive tape rolls come in many different sizes and as a result, there are a wide range of tape dispensers to accommodate them. Users can find themselves forced to buy different tape dispensers to use with different size tape roll, which can lead to unnecessary expense.

25 Summary of the Invention

Accordingly, the invention provides an adhesive tape cutting device, comprising a clip, having an inner face and an outer face, and an abrasive element, being mounted on the outer face of the clip, where in use the clip is linked to a roll of adhesive tape in such a manner that a portion of the clip passes between the main body of the roll and a

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section of unfurled adhesive tape, and whereby the abrasive element facilitates the severing of the unfurled section of tape from the main body of the roll.

It will be appreciated that due to the nature of the clip, the adhesive tape cutting device will be easily removed from the roll of adhesive tape. In the preferred embodiment, the clip may comprise two pieces that engage one another. This arrangement allows the device to be linked to (and unlinked from) a roll of adhesive tape without the need to alter the roll in any way.

It would be of further preference if each piece comprised a male and a female connecting means to enable the two pieces to join. Further advantage may be gained if the two pieces are identical, as this would reduce manufacturing costs.

Alternatively, the two clip pieces may be attached at one point by a hinge mechanism, thus allowing the clip to be opened and closed about the roll of adhesive tape.

In an alternative embodiment, the clip may comprise a single piece that has a chink or gap through which a portion of the roll of adhesive tape may be passed to permit the formation of the link. Preferably, the clip may be made of a resilient material that permits the size of the chink (or gap) to be increased temporarily, so that a portion the roll may pass through it.

Preferably, the abrasive element comprises at least one serrated ridge that projects from the outer face of the clip. Advantageously, the serrated ridge comprises a continuous band running around the clip. Further, preferably the serrated ridge may be located in the middle of the outer face.

It is appreciated that alternative forms of abrasive element may be used in an effective embodiment of the invention.

Preferably, the clip may comprise at least a portion of curved body. In the preferred embodiment, the clip comprises a circular shape.

Although the preferred embodiment of the device is circular in shape it is appreciated that alternative shaped clips may have equal merit, provided they are capable of presenting a suitable abrasive surface to the adhesive tape when in use.

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Further advantage may be gained if the clip is brightly coloured. This will help a user to instantly recognise the end of the adhesive tape.

Brief Description of the Drawings

In the drawings, which represent preferred embodiments of the invention:

5 Figure 1 shows a plan view of the adhesive tape cutting device;

Figure 2 shows a side view of the adhesive tape cutting device;

Figure 3 shows the interaction between the adhesive tape cutting device and a roll of adhesive tape;

10 Figure 4 shows a preferred embodiment of the adhesive tape cutting device at a stage between Figure 1 and Figure 3;

Figure 5 shows an alternative embodiment of the adhesive tape cutting device at a stage between Figure 1 and Figure 3;

Figure 6 shows a third alternative embodiment of the adhesive tape cutting device at a stage between Figure 1 and Figure 3.

15 Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments of the Invention

The overall shape of the adhesive tape cutting device 1 can be appreciated from figures 1 and 2. The device comprises a circular clip 2 with an inner face 3 and an outer face 4. It will be understood that the inner face is defined as the surface of the clip that faces towards the centre of the circle, whereas the outer face of the clip is defined by the surface that faces away from the centre of the circle. It is will also be understood that the inner and outer faces may be flat, as in a ring formation, or curved as in a doughnut formation.

20 An annular serrated ridge 5 is located on the outer face of the clip 4. In the preferred embodiment the ridge 5 is positioned in the middle of the outer face 4, this can be seen in figure 2. However, it is appreciated that the serrated ridge may be located away from the middle of the outer face without greatly affecting the functionality of the device 1.

30 The adhesive tape cutting device 1 also has means to permit it to be linked with a roll of adhesive tape (neither of which are shown in figures 1 and 2), which are described hereinafter.

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Figure 3 shows the adhesive tape cutting device 1 together with a roll of adhesive tape 6 as in use. A portion of the roll 6 is enclosed by the adhesive tape cutting device 1. The roll 6 comprises a continuous strip of adhesive tape 7, which is wound around many times to form the roll.

5 In use, the end section of the tape 8 is unrolled to a length approximate to that required by the user; then the adhesive tape cutting device 1 is slide between the section of tape 8 and the main body of the roll 6; and thus the user can use the serrated ridge 5 to sever the section of tape 8 from the main body of the roll 6.

As the section of tape 8 is removed from the main body of the roll 6, the new
10 end of the tape 7 remains attached to the device 1, thus preventing the loss of the end of the tape.

The specifics of the operation will be appreciated by the man skilled in the art.

It is appreciated that the device 1 may be permanently linked the roll 6, but it is preferable that the device is removable from the roll 6 so that it can be reused once the
15 roll is empty. Figures 4 - 6 show different arrangements of the device 1, all of which permit the adhesive tape cutting device 1 to be linked to (and unlinked from) an adhesive tape roll 6 as is required.

Figure 4, which is the preferred embodiment, shows a device 1 comprising two identical halves 1a and 1b. Each piece comprises a body 9 having a male connecting portion 10 and a female connecting portion 11, which interconnect the two pieces to form
20 the complete device 1.

Figure 5 shows an adhesive tape cutting device 1 comprising two pieces (1c and 1d) connected by a hinge mechanism 12. When closed a male connector 13 interacts with a female connector 14 to hold the device together. When the device is opened,
25 the hinge allows the pieces 1c and 1d to move apart, thus allowing the device to be removeably linked to a roll of adhesive tape 6.

Figure 6 shows an adhesive tape cutting device 1 comprising a single piece in the shape of an incomplete ring 1e. Although the gap 15 in the ring is not large enough for the roll 6 to pass through normally, it will be understood by the skilled man that by
30 constructing the clip 2 from a resilient material, such as rubber or an appropriate plas-

- 5 -

tic, it will be possible to deform the device 1e to permit the formation of a link with the roll of adhesive tape 6.

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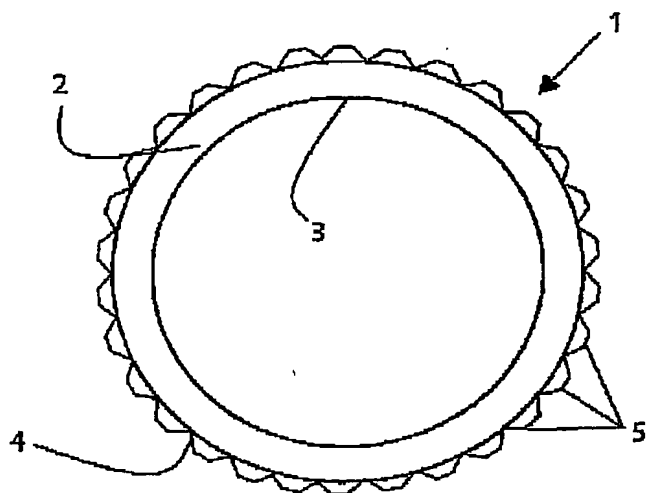


Fig. 1

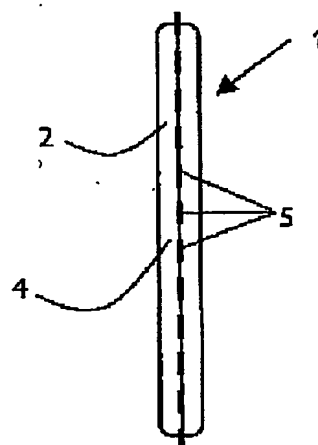
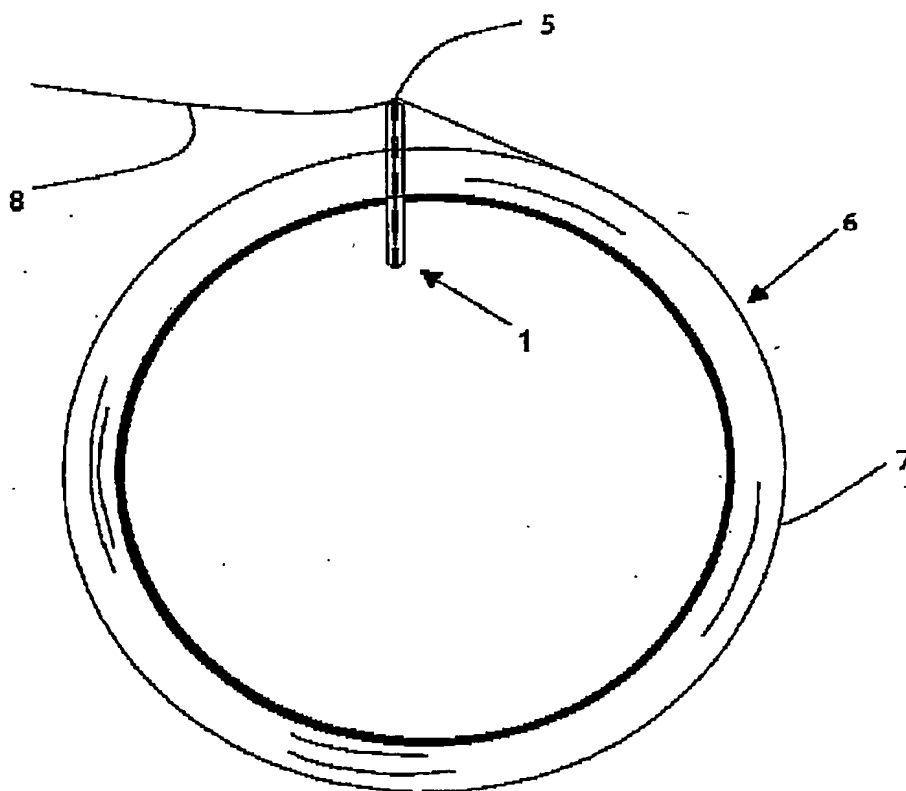


Fig. 2



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Fig. 3

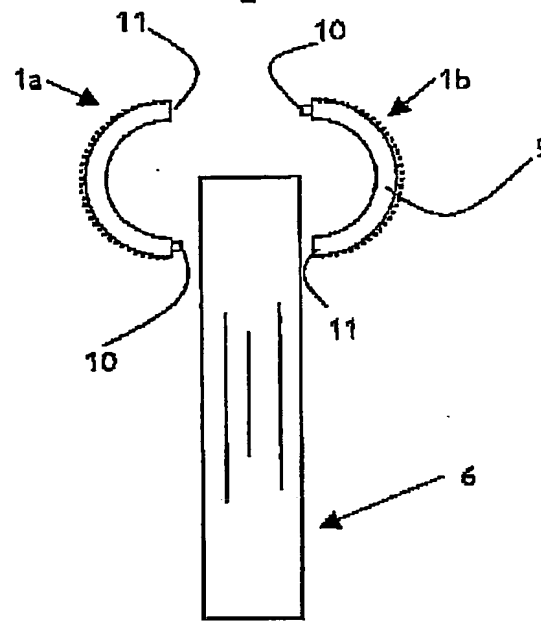


Fig. 4

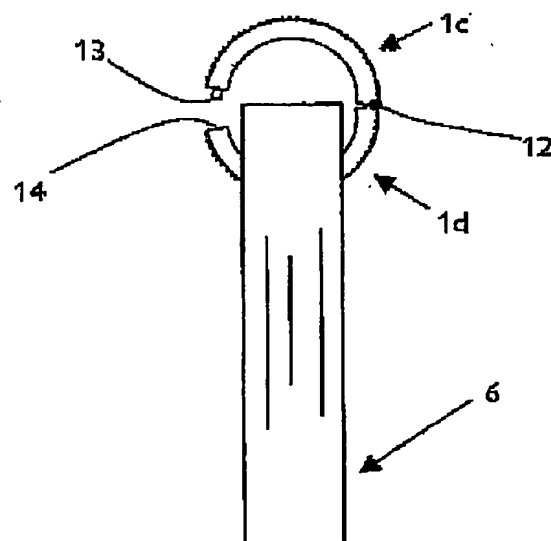


Fig. 5

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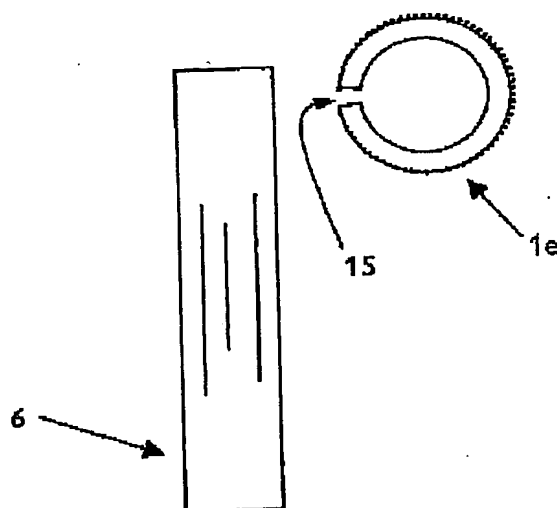


Fig. 6

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